



The Point:

The Truth about your Christ must Drive the Shape of your Christianity

The Outline:

The Truth about your Christ

- What Christ thought
 - His divine mode of being was not to be used selfishly
- What Christ did
 - He emptied Himself
 - He gave up His own rights to serve others
- Who Christ obeyed
 - His humility before the Father
 - The depth of His humility on the cross

The Shape of your Christianity

- Comfort, encouragement and fellowship in the Triune God the ground
- One mind, heart the vision
- Humility and concern for other's needs the means

The Connection

- The action of Christ on our behalf should motivate ours for our brothers and sisters

RELATE:

- Have you ever had to give something of significance up for someone else? Why did you do it?

-Read James 4:1-3 as a group. Have you found this to be true in the lives of children? How so? Have you found this to be true in the live of adults? How so?



-Have you ever heard friends or relatives speak of strife and discord within their churches? What do you think/feel when you hear this type of thing?

REFLECT:

-What significant piece of 'Theology' is taught in this passage about Christ? Is this a doctrine that you have a good grasp on... or one that you tend to assume and take for granted?

-What is Paul trying to show in speaking of the divine nature of Christ (and His pre-existence)?

-Some think that Christ emptied Himself of His divinity in becoming a man. Look at the following texts. Where do they lead you? (Matthew 1:21-23; John 1:1, 14; 5:16-18; 20:28; Colossians 1:19, 2:9)

-How do you normally think about humility? Give a one sentence definition. How does your definition compare with the kind of humility that Christ displayed in this passage?

-Read 2 Corinthians 8:9. How does this verse compare with the teaching of our passage this week?

-How could Christians go astray in their view of humility? How could this cause wrong actions in them?



-How does the resurrection/exaltation of Christ impact this passage? Does this teaching mean anything for your life day to day? If so, what?

-In this passage, Kyle noted that Christ did three things. Looking back at the passage, try to identify each:

-Thought something:

-Did Something:

-Obeyed Someone:

-What is the way that the people at Philippi would make Paul joy complete? What would they need to do or be?

-If Paul was to write to Indian Trail Church, would he say 'Make my joy complete', or 'You have made my joy complete'? Why do you think he would say this?

-Kyle quoted a New Testament scholar who said:

"....the not/but phrases and clauses in verse 3 put shoe leather to the appeal in verse 2."

If this is true, then explain what being of 'one mind' and having the 'same love' would look like.

-How does the Groups Ministry at ITC have the potential to serve the purposes that Paul lays out in this passage?



-What do you think are the biggest barriers to Christians humbling themselves and looking to the needs of others? What's the root?

-If you look at the first part of this passage (vv. 1-4), what are Christians called to:

-Think?

-Do?

-Obey?

-What is the connection Kyle made between Paul's exhortations to the people of God and the Theology about Christ?

-Are there ill effects if this connection isn't made? Name some.

RESPOND:

-Pray for the unity of ITC in every way that God desires

-Pray that Christ would continue to be praised as we learn the depths of what He did for His people

-Pray that the Lord would reveal areas in our hearts where we are not in conformity to this passage

-Pray that God would aid the leaders at ITC in guarding the church from discord and disunity

-Pray that our brothers and sisters at ITC live out this calling as an act of worship to Jesus, who humbled Himself to save us

-Local Focus:

Please pray for Valley Fourth Church and their elder team as they enter an interim period while searching for their next senior pastor. Ask that the Lord would give encouragement and anticipation to the entire body at Valley Fourth.